

BY THE KING.

of the Ship called the SANCTA CLARA, lately brought into South-Hampton.



Ambassador from the King of Spaine, that a Ship called the Sancta Clara belonging to the said King and His Subjects, hath been lately treacherously brought to South-Hampton, by one Captain Bennet Strafford and others, from Sancto Domingo, the said Ship being laden with Silver, Cocheneale, and other Wares and Merchandizes to a very great value; And that the said Ship and Goods, being by the said Ambassador arrested, and the said Bennet Strafford apprehended, whilest a suite for the said Ship and Goods is depending in the Court of Admiralty, the silver (part

of the lading of the faid Ship to a very great value) hath been disposed of contrary to Law, without any other security given for the same, then the empty Name of publike Faith, which without His Majesty cannot (as is well knowne to all the world) be engaged, or if engaged without His Majesty, is not valid, or to be relyed on for satisfaction. And it is further complained by the said Ambassador, That the Cocheneale, and other Merchandizes formerly sequestred at London and South-Hampton, albeit they are not perishable, but have rather encreased in their Price and Value, are likely to be sold against the Will of those who pretend to be the Owners, (Parties to the suite depending in the said Court of Admiralty) which is alleadged to be apparently against the Rules of Law, and practices of that Court in such Cases. His Majesty well weighing what may be the ill Consequences of such injurious Proceedings, manifestly contrary to the Law, and the Articles of Treaty between the two Crownes, and plainly foreseeing how heavily it may light upon such of His good Subjects, who have Estates in Spaine. and how destructive it may prove to the Trade and Commerce of His Subjects and Kingdomes, doth hereby not only expresly Charge and Command the Judge of his Admiralty, and all others whom it may concerne, to proceed in a Businesse of such Value and consequence, with Care, Expedition, and according to Iustice; But doth also expressy prohibite all persons, of what condition soever, upon pretence of any Order or Warrant from one or both Hoses of Parliament, or any Authority derived from thence, to buy, meddle with, or dispose of any part of the said Cocheneale, or other Goods or Merchandizes belonging to the said Ship, untill the propriety thereof shall be judicially decided and determined. Upon paine of His Majesties high Displeasure, and of being responsible and lyable to payment and satisfaction for what loever damage shall happen to any of His Majesties Subjects, whose Goods or Estates shall for that Cause be embargued or seized in Spaine.

I Given at the Court at Oxford, the second day of Ianuary, in the Eighteenth yeare of His Majesties Reigne.